GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4664
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2002
NATURAL GAS POLICY
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sent proposals regarding framing of its own Natural Gas Policy and regulatory model for the State;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered any view about the constitutional powers of the State Government to enact legislation on gas related matters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS` PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a)to(c) Government of Maharashtra are contemplating to legislate on the subject of `Natural Gas`. However, Union of India is of the view that `Natural Gas` is covered within the definition of `mineral oil` and `petroleum` which is a Union subject mentioned in the Entry 53 of Union List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and, therefore, State Legislatures are not competent to enact any legislation on natural gas related matters. In this regards a Presidential reference has been made to the Supreme Court for seeking its opinion on the issue as to whether the subject `Natural Gas` is a State or a Union subject.